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Guide for Student/Teacher Apprentices in Village Development

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CPA

This book has been printed for the university students and teachers who have been selected for apprenticeship in village development in project areas.

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THE PRINCIPAL, GRAMA SEVAKS' TRAINING [illegible] 29 AUG 1956 KOVILPATTI

[illegible]CTORY

You are being given an [illegible] of actual participation in the programme of rural commu[illegible]ment as an apprentice to the Gram Sevak (Village Level [illegible]ou will be residing in the village and working with the Gram [illegible] for five to six weeks. An attempt is made in this guide to indicate in brief how you will utilize this opportunity for helping the villagers and the Gram Sevak and in the process enrich your own knowledge and experience of the villages in India and of the programme of Community Development in action.

What you should know before going to the village

You must have attended the short course for a week arranged for your orientation at an Extension Training Centre. This Centre trains the Gram Sevak for all round village work. You must have, while undergoing this short training, studied the manuals and pamphlets issued by the CPA. These can be had from the Information Centre at the Block headquarters. In particular, you should equip yourself with general information on the following points :—

(*i*) What is the Community Development Programme ?

(*ii*) What are the aims, objectives and procedures of work ?

(*iii*) What is the administrative set-up of Community Projects, Community Development blocks and National Extension Service blocks ?

(*iv*) What are the various categories of extension staff and what are their duties ?

(*v*) What is the picture and plan of a model village ?

(*vi*) What is the role which the village school and the teacher can play in the programme ?

(*vii*) What is meant by extension ?

(*viii*) What are the extension methods and techniques ?

Village Development Programmes

You should inform yourself about the village development programme. The following are the main features :

(*i*) Improvement of agriculture by—enriching soils by manures —use of improved implements, better practices and best seed—soil conservation.

(*ii*) Encouragement of fruit gardening, vegetable gardening and kitchen gardening.

(*iii*) Improvement of livestock and treatment of minor ailments of animals.

(*iv*) Improvement of public health by making the village sanitary in every respect and by prevention of epidemic diseases, and provision of medical facilities.

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(*v*) Encouraging the school and the teacher to play their role in Community Development Programme.

(*vi*) Improvement of communications from the village to the main road and within the village.

(*vii*) Formation of cooperatives in villages.

(*viii*) Organising village institutions, especially making Panchayats function efficiently.

(*ix*) Provision of school facilities where none exist.

Social Education Programme

Social Education is another important programme. It is aimed at carrying on the following activities :

Activities for imparting knowledge

(*i*) Organisation of literacy classes and post-literacy work.

(*ii*) Education in health and citizenship.

(*iii*) Follow-up work with a view to prevent relapse into illiteracy and ignorance, such as, writing of wall papers, editing news bulletin etc.

Activities for securing people's participation

(*i*) Organisation of discussion groups for recognition and solution of village problems.

(*ii*) Arrangement of programmes for participation by the rural population in the development work with special reference to organisation of *shramdan.*

Activities for community organisation

(*i*) Youth welfare.

(*ii*) Women's welfare.

(*iii*) Child welfare.

(*iv*) Melas, festivals and exhibitions.

(*v*) Community centres.

(*vi*) Libraries and reading rooms.

(*vii*) Management of village radio set and formation of listening groups.

Recreational and cultural activities

(*i*) Social type of physical welfare activities like games, sports and *akharas.*

(*ii*) Outdoor and indoor games with and without equipment suitable for rural population.

(*iii*) Cultural activities like dramas, bhajans, folk songs, folk dances, kathas, etc.

How you begin your work in the village

Once you reach the village, you should first contact the Gram Sevak. He will help you in finding out accommodation. It is, however, expected that you should make arrangements for your food. You will have to live in the village like the villagers and like the Gram Sevak. You should give up feeling of superiority, if you have any. You have to work as a comrade in arms, and as an apprentice to the Gram Sevak.

You should spend the first few days in discussions with the Gram Sevak. You should acquaint yourself with all important facts of the village you are living in and other villages in the charge of the Gram Sevak. You should study the records maintained by the Gram Sevak ond other statistical information available with the Revenue Officer. You should then learn from the Gram Sevak what schemes of rural development he is pursuing in the villages and in the particular season. You should then join in the work he is presently doing.

Your routine in the village

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Every new arrival in a village is an object of curiosity. All eyes will be watching you and your movements minutely, sometimes without your knowing about it. But this should not frighten you. You should lead a simple life like a villager, and try to put an ideal before the village youth. This will earn the love and respect of the villagers for you. There is much one can learn from them. Illiterate persons are not necessarily ignorant or lacking in wisdom or culture. There should be nothing in your conduct or talk which will alienate the villagers.

With the advice of the Gram Sevak, you should make contacts with the villagers and make house to house visits, with a view to understanding the people, their problems and their life in the village. You should also study the institutions of the village. In all likelihood, there will be a Gram Panchayat in the village and possibly a Vikas Mandal or Development Council also. You should meet the members and office bearers and study the records of these institutions and discuss their problems.

In addition to helping the Gram Sevak in his present task, you may choose some particular activities from those mentioned under Village Development Programmes, above, for which you have special aptitude and liking. Perhaps, you are more interested in the Social Education programmes. Find out if there is a literacy class going on in the village. You may assist the Literacy Teacher in literacy and post-literacy work, in health, education, citizenship education and planning the follow-up activities like writing of wall paper and editing news bulletin. If a literacy class does not exist, you may begin motivating the people for literacy and then start a class as soon as sufficient number comes forward to learn. The other work which may interest you is organising discussion groups for recognition and solution of village problems.

You should also help the Gram Sevak in organising *Shramdan* for various purposes. Summer months are good for this type of work.

While in school and college you must have taken part in physical activities like games and sports. May be you are also interested in indoor games and cultural activities like dramas, bhajans, folk songs, folk dances, kathas, etc. This is a rich field of activities for you. Your effort to organise these activities for villagers will give you more opportunities to mix with them.

It is in the field of setting up organisations in the village that your knowledge and experience of conducting similar institutions in the school or college will be of use to you. If organisations like Youth Club, Bal Sabha, library, reading room and community centre are already in existence in the village, you should try to improve them by giving them new ideas and programmes and by showing how records of these activities should be maintained. You can train the youthful leaders to conduct and build up these organisations. If there is a radio set in the village, you will no doubt listen to the rural programmes broadcast by the All-India Radio. You should try to organise listening groups and stir up discussions of the programmes.

Help from the Social Education Organisers

You are probably aware that for every block there are two Social Education Organisers in charge of organising the Social Education programmes. You may seek their help and advice from time to time as regards the various activities of Social Education.

Log Book

It is important that you should maintain a log book. For this purpose, you should take with you a bound note book. Everyday, you should jot down your observations and experiences in it. Try to do this in an interesting way. This log book will be your *memoire* of this period and will also be helpful in evaluating the programme in which you have participated.

To sum up, you can make this period of stay in villages one which you and the villagers will long remember. If the villagers and the Gram Sevak come to look upon you as a young friend who has sought to be useful to them, you will have the satisfaction of having made a modest contribution to the development of New India.

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